

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for March 10, 2022 was held tonight. Members present: Stephen Conrad, Kelly Eidell, Timothy Esposito, Donald Jones, James McCann III, Liza Meiris, Paul Sivitz, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman, and Thomas Wieckowski. Staff present: Allen Brown, Property Maintenance Supervisor and Kelly Rebitz, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant.

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Wieckowski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes** – A meeting was not held in February due to a lack of quorum.
3. **Review of Financial Report** – None.
4. **Committee Reports**
  - A. **Education** –
    1. February Lecture – Mr. Jones gave a report on the Black History Month lecture.
    2. May Lecture – Mr. Jones gave a report on the upcoming Preservation Month Lecture that will be held at Curtis Hall on May 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. The presenter will be Dr. Thomas Wieckowski. A conversation ensued about refreshments and whether the presentation should be held in person or in a hybrid style.

**Action:** Mr. Esposito made a motion to livestream and record the in-person May Preservation Month Lecture on Zoom. Ms. Eidell seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
  - B. **Preservation** – None.
  - C. **Museum** – Donations
    1. Mr. Conrad is donating several items to the war room about a classmate who went missing in action in Vietnam in 1971. Mr. Conrad has pictures of him in Glenside Elementary, Thomas Williams Junior High and a Cheltenham High School Yearbook from 1966. Mr. Conrad also donated papers about the Vietnam war, war helmets (U.S. and North Vietnam), and life magazines.
    2. Mr. Esposito made several donations including an electric toaster from the 1915 and a piece of sculpted brick work from a chimney of the Ronaele estate mansion after it was demolished in the 1970's.
    3. Mr. McCann donated a copy of an album of Saint Aidan's Church on Cottman Ave in Philadelphia. He is also donating three sets of ration cards from World War Two and lantern slides from the old Heller School in Cheltenham.
5. **Chairman's Report**
  - A. **The Spring Edition of the Wall Paper is Available** – Copies were distributed at the meeting.
  - B. **Opportunity for Cooperative Grant with Abington Friends and Dr. Holt** – Dr. Holt is seeking a grant to hold a program about the problem of enslavement in Cheltenham Township. The goal is to hold the program in April of 2023.
  - C. **Update on Quorum Problem** – Mr. Wieckowski is working with the Township on the issue.
6. **Staff Report** – Mr. Brown reported on the condition of the facilities and Township's staffing issue which delays some projects. Mr. McCann inquired about the Shovel Shop. Mr. Brown explained

about the water infiltration and the problems with the chimney. Mr. Conrad asked about the Springhouse window. Mr. Brown said they can revisit that repair this year.

7. **Old Business** –

- A. Discussion of Proposal for Naming Greenwood Avenue Stream – Mr. Wieckowski explained the request for the resident who was not present. A conversation ensued.

**Action:** Ms. Meiris made a motion: Noting that a citizen has taken the initiative to request the naming of the small creek along Greenwood Avenue in Wyncote, and noting also that an effort in 2008 named six unnamed streams, and noting that the process apparently was never completed with the State, I move that the Township be requested to reopen its effort to officially name the streams and complete the paperwork with the state. As an opportunity for public comment and input was included in the 2008 effort, such an opportunity should be included once again in the proposed new effort. Further, I request the Chair prepare the request and circulate the draft to the membership for comment before submitting it to the Township. Mr. Jones seconded. Mrs. Washington abstained. The chair stated the voice vote was in favor and the motion passed..

- B. Status of Website Updates – Mr. Esposito – Mr. Esposito and Lauren Walter have worked together on the updates. The Township is in the midst of a larger website restructuring process which will better organize information for the public. For this reason future updates to the Historical Commission site are on hold until the board approves an action plan for a revised site map. However, the small edits requested were able to be corrected.
- C. Establish Schedule for Spring Open Houses – The Spring Open Houses will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>, and May 22<sup>nd</sup>. A workday is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> or April 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Eidell and Mr. Sivitz will both shadow Mr. Conrad and Mr. Wieckowski to learn how to be docents at the Richard Wall House Museum.

8. **New Business** –

- A. Announcement of Spring Lecture Series, OYRHS – April 13<sup>th</sup> will be the next Lecture in the Old York Road Historical Society Lecture Series. It will be a hybrid (live and Zoom) lecture.
- B. Participation in NE History Fair – The Fair will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wieckowski asked for volunteers to man a Cheltenham Township Historical Commission table at the fair. Ms. Eidell offered to attend.
- C. BHAR Representation – Mr. Wieckowski shared that there is an open seat on both the Wyncote and La Mott BHAR for a Historical Commission member. Mr. Sivitz offered to sit on the Wyncote BHAR. Ms. Werkman asked when the requirement for a Historical Commission member to sit on the BHAR's began. She also asked if it was a conflict of interest to sit on both the BHAR and the Historical Commission. The discussion was tabled until more information can be obtained.
- D. 1313 Ashbourne Road Garage Demo Application – There was a discussion on the repairs on the house and the condition of the Garage.

**Action:** Mr. Conrad made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Eposito seconded. With deep regret the motion was unanimously approved.

9. **Moment in History** – Mrs. Washington shared several moments in history.

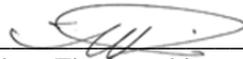
10. **Good and Welfare** – Mr. Wieckowski shared a newspaper article about a historic quandary faced by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Civil War Museum and Library. Online article is available here: [on the Inquirer website.](#)

Mr. Esposito explained that the Shulik's were not in attendance because their baby was due at any time.

Mr. McCann shared the Chelton Hills Model Railroad club has an open house at the Old York Road Train Station next weekend.

Ms. Rebitz shared Brian Hinson's appreciation and thanks for the Resolution and the acknowledgement in the Wall Paper.

11. **Adjournment** – Mr. Conrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

  
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Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kelly Rebitz

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